

From: Tom
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 6:27pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I am writing to express my concerns that the settlement proposed between the Department of Justice and Microsoft will create serious security concerns for users, businesses, and government entities.

This settlement fails to address the main problem that was brought up in the suit, anti-competitive activities by Microsoft. A slap on the wrist for such a huge company will do little to increase competition in the software industry. There are significant problems caused by the monopoly Microsoft enjoys over web browsers, desktop operating systems, and office suites, including lost productivity, reduced innovation, and frustrated computer users.

However, the issue of security has not been given enough attention. Microsoft's anti-competitive tactics have put them in a position where they have had little incentive to improve the virus vulnerability in products such as Microsoft Outlook and Word. Lost time and down networks have resulted from the problems Outlook's design, most famously with the Melissa virus, but continuing with the Goner virus outbreak.

When faced with the threat of cyberterrorism, these security problems can no longer be neglected in anti-trust policy. Only by restoring competition to the areas of the software industry where Microsoft has illegally generated monopolies can the nation obtain software that is less vulnerable to hostile agents at home or abroad. Microsoft has repeatedly demonstrated that without competition, they will not take adequate steps to make their products more secure.

Sincerely,

Thomas Klem